

Citizen Advocacy Project Newsletter

January 2022

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2022! The team have been busy since our last newsletter and continue to try and keep things going with the changing guidelines for face to face meetings and events! The team are optimistic that we may be able to come together to have an event in the spring time (see more details further in the newsletter). We hope this will be a chance for us all to reconnect and catch up with each others news.



Staff Changes:

We have had a busy few months here at AIA. Nicola (Office Manager) left at the end of December, and Suzanne (Chief Officer) finished up at the end of January. We will miss them both lots but wish them the best of luck in their new adventures.

Lucy (Participation Worker) joined the Citizen Advocacy team in January. Linda also started as Office Manager, providing support to the whole AIA team. You can read a bit more about Lucy later in this newsletter.

I have taken on the role of Interim Chief Officer until this post is filled but will still be providing support the Citizen Advocacy team.

Heather MacMaster



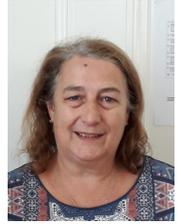
Updates from Staff

Hi Everyone

My name is Sandra Stewart and I am currently working one day a week with the Citizen Advocacy Project until May. I also work 3 days a week as a direct advocacy worker with the Families Project. Although I have been able to catch up with some Advocates and Partners, I look forward to meeting a few more people over the next few months.

I have worked in the voluntary sector for 20 years around volunteer recruitment and community development. I am also a Trustee with a local garden project supporting adults with learning disabilities.

I like gardening, walking, reading crime novels and when I visit family in Holland I enjoy cycling.



Hi, I'm Lucy, I have just Joined AIA as a Participation Worker. My role will be to help Board and Steering Group Members to prepare for and actively participate in meetings.

I moved up to Scotland in 2013 from Brighton as my husband got a job in Dundee. I now live in Carnoustie with my husband and 2 sons who are aged 11 and 13. My spare time is usually filled with walking my dog Nellie on the beach, watching my sons play football and swimming in the sea when I can. I have also recently become a Citizen Advocate.



Hello everyone! As most of you will know my name is Lisa and I am a full time Citizen Advocacy Development Worker at AIA. In October I changed from working 25 hours per week to working full time, and I know a few of you would have heard me say I did love my Fridays off, but I quickly got used to the full weeks!

Things have been challenging with the changing rules & guidance, however we have adjusted each time and hopefully now we are on the road to opening a bit more I am looking forward to arranging the Spring event alongside Sandra.

As Heather has mentioned there have been a few changes within AIA which will take some getting used to, however change is sometimes good, and although I will miss our colleagues who are moving on I am looking positively to the future of AIA and what we can achieve for everyone we work with.

Currently, I mostly working at home and have taken full advantage by topping up my stationery and making myself a wee home office. As some of you know organising and stationery make me super happy!



Recruitment Opportunities

Board of Directors- Recruitment

We are looking
For a new **Treasurer**
to join our dynamic **Board of Directors**
AIA is seeking a Board member with finance experience, who also has an understanding of the social injustices people face when marginalised.
Time commitment- 2-3 hours per month

We are also looking a **Citizen Advocate** to act as a representative on the **Board/ Citizen Advocacy Steering Group**. This would involve attending approx. 1 meeting a month (BoD one month, Steering Group the next). If you are interested in both or either of the above opportunities please get in touch with Heather: heather@angusindadvocacy.org for an informal chat in the first instance.



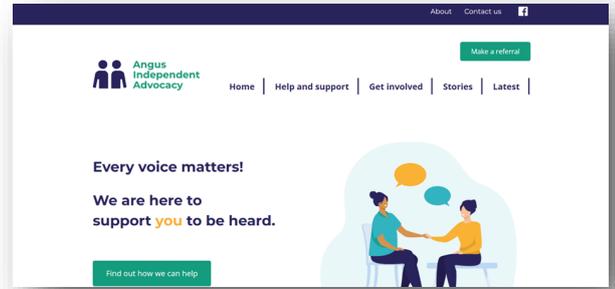
The Development Workers have been busy over the last while trying to recruit citizen advocates. There are a few partners who still need to be matched. We would be grateful if you could share any of our online information from Facebook and spread the word to your social circles and put anyone interested in touch with us. Now more than ever we are seeing social isolation due to the pandemic and we hope we can find more local people to support our partners.



Website:

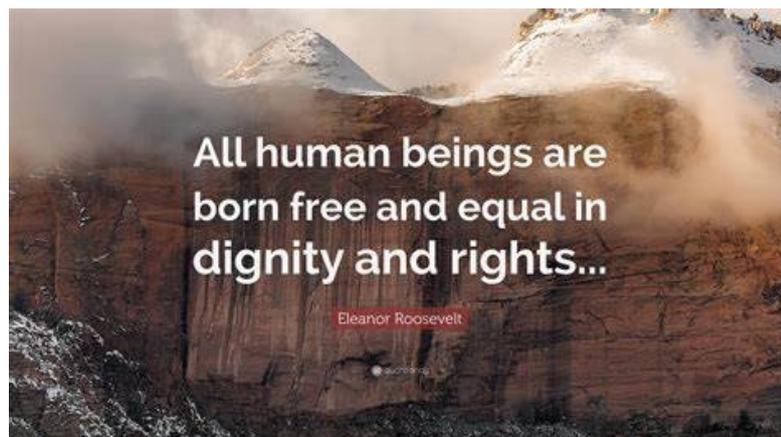
Our new website has now launched. We had support from Third Sector Lab to create a new logo and accessible website.

We hope that it will be easier for people to find information and understand what we do. If you have any feedback please let your development worker know.



Development Workers

- The citizen advocacy development workers have been busy recruiting over the last few months, they have been taking new citizen advocates through the one to one prep courses and have been chatting to those who enquired about becoming a citizen advocate.
- A big recruitment drive at the end of 2021 saw quite a few enquiries from people who wanted to know more about what we do. We have been using social media & links with other organisations and community groups to spread the word about the project. We have met with new locality workers and social prescribers who are now aware of what we do.
- We have been working hard to make our learning sessions suitable for online learning, we would appreciate any feedback about this when you have attended.
- As some of you may be aware, the funding for the project is due to end on 31st May 2022. So we are waiting patiently to hear about new funding for continuing the project. At the moment we are not working with new partners but we are happy to take their name for our interest list and when we get funding we will be in touch with people to start working with them.
- We have been contacting our partnerships to arrange reviews with them. So if we have not seen or spoken with you for a while we will be in touch shortly to arrange these.
- Lisa completed a 12 week University course which involved writing an essay about her practice and demonstrating the work that she does in her role.
- We organised our Christmas event which unfortunately had to be moved to online, however we did get good feedback and it is always nice to have a catch up with people even if plans had to be changed.



Dates For Your Diary



LEARNING SESSIONS

Tuesday 15th February 2pm—5pm	Human Rights Learning Session
Wednesday 2nd March 6pm—8pm	Group Preparation Learning Session
Wednesday 9th March 6pm—8pm	Adult Support & Protection Learning Session
Wednesday 20th April 6.30pm—8.30pm	Non Instructed Advocacy Learning Session
Thursday 5th May 9.30am—11.30am	Adult Support & Protection Learning Session



SPRING EVENT



We are looking to host an afternoon tea for our partners and Citizen Advocates. This will take place at The Hub, Friockheim on Saturday 28th May from 12noon until 3pm. This will be a chance for folks to catch up and chat about what we have been up to.

There will be an opportunity to contribute to a piece of art which will show what citizen advocacy means to you. All materials will be provided!

This will also be a bit of a fancier afternoon tea with mocktails on arrival, so please feel free to dress fancy if you want to!

Invites will be sent out nearer the time.



Meet the Steering Group Members



Hello my name is Derek and I became involved in the Steering Group after helping with the Angus Independent Advocacy Website.

I like advocacy because I meet new people and get out and about.

I love action films, in particular the Marvel movies.

I love Spanish food and travelling and I hoping to get back there soon on holiday.

I really like swimming.

Places in Angus Quiz

1. Name any 2 Glens in Angus.
2. Peter Pan author JM Barrie was born in this town.
3. Name the two theatres in Arbroath.
4. Which town in Angus has a Cathedral.
5. The House of Dun is situated between which two towns.
6. What town in Angus has an archway at its entrance and also has a castle.
7. Which seaside town is famous for its Links Golf Course.
8. This place is famous for making Bridies.
9. What is the name of the famous Lighthouse of the Angus coast.
10. The Air Heritage Centre can be found in this town.

If you have a favourite place you like to visit please let us know and we can share this information in the next Newsletter. Please include a picture if you want.